

Message Text

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10

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01

ITC-01 SP-02 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

CEA-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 /100 W

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P R 110758Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5421

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1012

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN KS KN

SUBJ: ROKG ACTING FONMIN PLEASED WITH OUTCOME UNCTAD GROUP OF
77 MEETING

1. IN COURSE FEBRUARY 11 MEETING ACTING FONMIN NO SINGYONG
TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT RECENT MEETINGS OF ASIAN MEMBERS OF UNCTAD
GROUP OF 77 IN JAKARTA AND FULL GROUP OF 77 MEETING IN MANILA
HAD BEEN ENCOURAGING FROM ROK POINT OF VIEW. NO SAID THAT REPRE-
SENTATIVES FROM MANY COUNTRIES AS WELL AS NEWSMEN HAD COME TO
HIM DURING MEETINGS TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN AND APPROVAL OF SOUTH
KOREAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN WHAT NO HAD TO SAY IN HIS STATEMENTS AT
THE MEETINGS. NO'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT ROK WAS REGARDED AS QUOTE
A STUDENT UNQUOTE IN DEVELOPMENT TERMS AND THAT THIS FACT WAS
WORKING TO ROK POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE IN THIRD
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WORLD. WHILE HE HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO GO TO MEETINGS IN THE

FIRST INSTANCE BECAUSE HE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS PROBABLY THE JOB OF ONE OF THE ECONOMIC MINISTERS TO REPRESENT ROKG, HE WAS DELIGHTED HE HAD PARTICIPATED.

2. NO WAS ALSO QUITE PLEASED THAT NORTH KOREAN APPLICATION TO GROUP OF 77 HAD FOR A COMBINATION OF REASONS BEEN HEADED OFF THIS YEAR. BASIC REASON DPRK DID NOT APPLY, NO SPECULATED, WAS NORTH'S CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF REJECTION, GENERATED BY LONG DRAWN OUT PROCEDURAL FIGHT OVER MALTA AND ROMANIA ENTRY AT JAKARTA AND MANILA MEETINGS. NO SAID HE MAY HAVE HELPED DETER NORTH BY URGING SEVERAL KEY ASIAN COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES TO RESIST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION WHEN SUBJECT CAME UP. ACTING FONMIN GUESSED THAT DPRK PARTICULARLY WISHED AVOID ANY NEGATIVE IMPRESSIONS GROWING IN MINDS THIRD COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS PRIOR FORTHCOMING COLOMBO MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED NATIONS.

3. IN RESPONSE AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION, NO THOUGHT THAT THERE WERE DEFINITE SIGNS OF INCREASING DIVISION AMONG COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT UNCTAD GROUP OF 77 MEETING. ASIAN GROUP MEMBERS CLEARLY DID NOT WANT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN POLITICAL ISSUES AND BOTH AT JAKARTA AND MANILA WERE ABLE TO BLOCK PLO AND IRAQI EFFORTS TO EXPEL ISRAEL. NO THOUGHT USG WARNINGS THAT COUNTRIES ROLES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE WATCHED CLOSELY AND WOULD BECOME MORE IMPORTANT FACTOR IN U.S./THIRD COUNTRY BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WERE HAVING POSITIVE EFFECTS.

4. UNDERLINING HIS IMPRESSION THAT ASIAN GOVERNMENTS IN PARTICULAR APPEARED TO ESCHEW POLITICALLY DESTABILIZING AND IRRATIONAL POSITIONS, NO SAID THAT IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS INDONESIAN, MALAY AND PHILIPPINE FONMINS HAD ALL TAKEN AN INTEREST IN SOUTH KOREAN SITUATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND HAD EXPRESSED REAL CONCERN ABOUT POLITICAL STABILITY IN NORTH EAST ASIA. PHILIPPINE FONMIN QUESTIONED NO CAREFULLY ABOUT FIRMNESS OF US COMMITMENT TO BOTH KOREA AND FORMOSA, APPARENTLY EXPRESSING WORRY THAT U.S. MIGHT WITHDRAW SUPPORT IN THESE AREAS. NO SAID HE TOLD ROMULO THAT U.S. WAS ONE HUNDRED TWENTY PERCENT BEHIND ROK. AS REGARDS U.S. COMMITMENT TO FORMOSA NO SAID HE HAD DECLINED TO COMMENT.
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